Marcel Ray Duriez

Nevaeh

Book: 80

Wild in the Moonlight

'Moon-Bloods'

Part:

I was a born-again virgin.

The moon made me run under it like a wild woman in the night, human or not angel or not it was life. Freedom, the need for freedom, sang in me as loudly as the song of the moon. I wanted to, but not everyone could get what they wanted, I never did, yet what I have I did not appreciate.

Another shiver ran through my skin, I walked through the crescent

moon and the full moon without my silver ring on my tummy – I scratched them out my wings, but I did nothing next but take in the blowing night wind.

'I bet you're great,' Emma paused. 'Now you feel like one of us', why?

'Stop smelling the air!'

- I am a tailor.

'You'll be safe with us.' Emmah promised. I stopped shaking a long time ago.

'Should you fly, please?'

Oh, my Creator, have mercy, did she just say 'please'?

She was even brave enough to continue when I looked at her stormily or threateningly. 'There will be a full moon here for the next two days.'

'Not,' I cut off, the second time she asked me, rushing deep into the dark sky above. This will be the second time I have had the flu down past them. I was not kidding about my powers anymore. Emmah she- is my genuine wolf as she was underneath me yelling at the full moon as she transformed, she

could whine as much as she wanted, and I would trust her.

'Okay, I see where I've gone wrong, and that was not trusting others.'

'Which one?'

'There's a compromise in every relationship.'

'So, we're in a relationship right now, me and the love of the world that I have dominance over.' I squeaked, feeling a knock between my ribs, at last, a heart beating. 'This is news to me.'

'You're going to get used to it.' She assured me, indifferent to my destructive emotions.

Landing before, my dear ones.

'I say my name, and that I am back, I am existing.'

- I am not kidding I am alive like I was when I was a young girl and look like a teenager again, Jaylynn, calm down, you do look just like me. It is nothing to panic about.

I could not. My heart was beating like my personal metronome. A smooth knock that will not slow down.

'So, how about that? You will be coming with us in two days to show yourself to all in this world, that you are alive, and have risen from the dead.

While the wolves are running behind you will shin.

'Nope.'

'I'm not safe anywhere,' I told them.

'I promise not to even mention the word 'metamorphosis'. I added that they did not want me to know why now. 'I promise, I will go away.'

-Also, I did not say anything.

- I object.

'And you cannot ask me about anything, and it will be fine with them, no questions?

Now until I bring myself to do this from now on, I am this world's goddess.'

'Play a deal or no deal with them.'

'So-o' I said looking in a long passionate gaze.

'They can take it or leave it.'

I- Nevaeh shrugged and said 'Okay' cutely, like a preteen child.

'You're charming when you behave like that.'

Watch out. 'Like what?'

Have we ever played with or without a deal?

'Make your eyes darken, your cheeks turn red and pink, you bite your lip too, and they will fear you if they need in not doing so.'

My lip slipped out from under my teeth. You also often run your hand over your hair and show them the blood on your blade for their wrongs. My fingers snapped out of my hair.

'It's really seductive.'

I blushed. 'It's also very alluring.' Emmah told me at that moment at that time.

'Is there anything you do not think is desirable?'

Her lips curled as she thought about it. Her eyes became darker until they almost turned into eclipses. Dark navy-gray and then turned black. 'Yes, they are creepy. What is the point of them? Um like- seeing the real me?'

The warmth trickled under my skin and to the tips of my toes, things

like that are not cute to them, just be yourself.

-'My toes are cold?'

'Toes?'

'My toes...'

We both looked at my wriggling toes. short and short, with red chips on my nail, I never took off the nail polish that I had applied, for ages days passed.

Putting my foot on my leg, I jerked back, strong-arming Emmah. 'Interesting.' I did it again and she jerked.

'I have come back...'

The epistemology philosopher crystal ball, holding my soul for all those years as a copy of my DNA.

A slow smirk spread across my face. I finally had a mythical substance supposed to change any metal into gold or silver in the power of my hands, and, according to some, to cure all in health or kill at the touch, stop all diseases, and prolong life indefinitely for myself, and my loved ones, just like the crystal ball.

And just like the gem around Karly's necklace is also known as the epistemologist rock, a keeper of souls and all memories.

Its discovery was the supreme object of alchemy.

I was going to take full advantage of that.

Descending overall, I was even sane enough to finally write. They all looked at me nervously, I loved it.

'Why do you then they look at me like that?'

'I'm sorry,' I smirked wider. 'Disconnected for a moment ... what were we talking about?'

'I told you how cute you played...' faithfully.

Look she has one footie, I did not like this game, but I would play and make them squeal like a girl if they annoyed me.

'Deal or no bone kept or life's saved?'

I raised my eyebrows.

'A dice?'

'You can't even play with us again if you refuse.'

'I am GOD!' she yelled.

I shrugged. 'No more demise, pain, or death.'

'Excellent,' the crowd grumbled.

'Do I need to swear to them all I will?'

I will keep my promise.

'Yes, you, say solemnly swear not to mention attempts to change or change in front of oath. Repeat that.'

'I take this oath with the objective of evolving the best Goddesses I can be. I profess to stay unpretentious, open-minded and to honor the legacy of all who have come before me by paying it onwards in the same intellectual convention. I determinate my

commitment to acclimate to the passionate topography of cure and to the enormous growth in biotechnology. I promise to support each someone authorized to my consideration to the best of my ability, in line with the founding regulations in care. I acknowledge that my therapy of patients should not only remember scientific understanding, but also the art of compassionate respect...'

Good enough.

Then I- Nevaeh sighed as I threw my hair over my shoulder one last

time. The thread whistled through my teeth before I could suppress it.

'Sleep time?'

I do not think so, friend. Now you have time to was not, I am going to tell you now, we need to go to bed.

'What time did you go to bed; the sun is going to rise at last after a long darkness.'

'Ten A.M., at the same time as, Kristen, Alanna, Janna, Jaylynn, Karly and Emmah.'

I did not mention that I had to wake up because the newly born angelic

figure fallen angel Cherub, Ayanda had an ear infection and needed constant attention then again is only a baby.

Or that the moon was calling to me last night, that also the newborn feeling of wanting blood. I would not have told them that she had started dreaming about days to come, even years ahead in time, I just would not have passed all this to her, yet she needed my recollections.

'You all can grumble if you like. I told. - Isn't she grumpy all the time? She looked at me dozing off, still holding her hand.

'She says no that is not that way all the time, yet she is.' Emmah said, along with, 'I talked about this...' as I got up and went about my business.

Ayanda sighed as if I was impossible. Rising to her feet, she began to assist.

Ayanda, what do you know about vampires? I- Emmah asked from my seat on the couch, not understanding how I got here and why she was in the kitchen, without me, cooking, at her age.

‘I like to understand them for being misunderstood.’

'It was weird and wrong, and I knew why my ass was on the couch too, much anymore. Sighing after I finished the last chores, my ass lay on the couch, just like that my mind and heavy eyes were telling me to take a nap. I was too dominant for her interest. Overprotective, defensive by nature, like a mother.

'Not much,' She leaned her jean-covered thigh against the counter as she recovered consciousness.

-Nothing at all.

We are the only everlasting associations they knew about. If I am

lucky, the pet dragon can live further down the street and the selkie moves across a few streets.

Ayanda told me, she has a pet dragon.

-Why? I said to her.

Ayanda shrugged, looking away. She knew something.

-Ayanda...

-My family likes to rase them.

—Yet they moved when I was a baby. Said, Ayanda.

Emmah was a beta in our old pack as a pre-release product at home pet dragons that is released for testing. It is a wonderful world.

A lunar flock before we came here. My job was to know all the types, top chief, and other immortal pursuits.' She completed awkwardly shrugging her shoulders.

Unkinked I, get to my feet and sneak upon them talking about all thing's dragons. It is no coincidence that we did not mention that Ayanda was in the pack. It could not be, who could forget it.

'Go, lie back down, you need your rest, you have already done everything you needed for all of us.'

I- Nevaeh kept going. All the while, even if I was working tirelessly, to pen my thoughts and story daily.

She knew how I could find Zazil. She knew I was going crazy thinking about where to start.

Where do I go to find a vampire and a dragon all at the same time?

Look at Nevaeh by poking her in the chest with her index finger.

'Her eyes glow, showing her love, he is a good dragon, a good boy.'

You did not tell me you have a love for the wide life.' You did not say a word. 'Nothing!' You are different around them too, you are kind to them. Said Nevaeh.

He did not even blink or flinch when I poked her again. Like- I admit- I feel that I did something wrong, by doing that.

I then pulled my finger off her before it could sink into her chest more.

'It's been more than seven years since you were in contact with our old pack about becoming our Goddesses, a lot has changed, thanks to your stories, and your life.' Unclenches ran from my head to my fingers, separating them from all the death.

Standing on the cliff outside the cottage that I have been calling my home.

'To be honest, I did not think about it anymore. I regretted it, then he looked at me completely sincerely. My lips frowned and my eyes looked indigo-colored due to the color of the sky above

me, my eyes were wide open and sincere. -Autumn feeling in the air ego was nothing to do with the way I was feeling, looking at all the bodies around me in stifling air balloons, taking with it righteous vexation.

Leaving me empty, empty. Outrage and at least that gives me hope that there was an inkling. My lips gave me time to hide what I was feeling. But that does not mean it does not hurt even if I am getting stronger every day.

'Okay,' I waved next to my chest. I should not have a bruise.

'Don't cry,' I said, leaning forward.

'I'm not going to' wiping frustrating things. I did not cry.

The space became blurrier as the comes to life with rich luminescent colors that arrived off around my feet. Setting down, next to the pathway, the cool marble on my butt gave me eerie goosebumps.

Not as much as the warm fingers that touched my cheeks, a new feeling of having life in me that was not cold, and a dead feeling on the inside. I

could see them again when they pulled away from the sky with squalls.

Part:

I sat at the kitchen table, a girl named Bridget standing between my knees, her fingers running down my cheeks. The tears were gone, but they were still there.

'Now you're going to stop crying.' She told me seriously. 'You're not going to cry anymore, you know we're going to find hope in perfect circumstances,' and completely everlasting.

'You'll be fine.' 'How did she know that? What if we are not okay?

Shaking my head, I discarded those thoughts and brought Bridget back to worry about everything else when the time came. Exhaling, I held my entire body slumping.

Nevaeh also exhaled, 'everything will be fine,' jerks her lips. I thought that meant this one. She had a lot of different things. One that spread quickly usually meant problems.

'Bridget?' Then I had to get off the counter and leave. It is something I had to do, even when I felt like I was

leaning forward. Even when I could feel her cool, ice cream-soaked breath caressing my neck. I did not feel. Ice cream? Her lips, did they still taste vanilla? I remember this as a child and as a mother, all the moments came back to my mind.

Part:

Then just a moment before I was about to find out, there was a shrill voice: 'What, in the name of my children, are you doing!'

We both jerked guiltily away from each other.

I helped Bridget slip off the counter before we met face to face with Emmah.

My stepmother turned to the Guardian side of this world and looked at them like I was in awe from under my long dark eyelashes.

Still dressed in the nurse's clothes, Emmah was standing there, she did not make a sound as she walked through the door. 'What are you doing in the kitchen?' She looked even harder.

Emmah nodded towards the stove where something smelled exceptionally good.

'And that is it?'

Her now blue eyes glowed on my skin, prompting me to say something, 'Where's Alanna?'

'At school.'

'Today is Saturday.'

'Friday.' Bridget corrected: 'Emmah said she would pick her up with Ayanda.

Meagan and I were going to visit Jaylynn.'

'Why?' Meagan shrugged looking at Madelyn, 'We needed to talk, girls.'

I am sorry, but she did not do all her housework, and now they want to play. I told her. The house smelled of cleaning products and lemon.

'Twins must be... able to look after each other.'

'I'll take them with me.'

She slammed her mouth shut, 'No, stay here.' before turning around and heading into her room. We both stared at her before turning to each other.

'Why?'

The youthful Meagan shrugged looking at her twin Madelyn, and turned to me, she did not have to tell me what she thought. I already knew. her lips. She did not say 'just don't have to,' but I knew how she wanted.

They both looked back at the closed door. Three hundred always picked the unfortunate timing to start playing dominance games, little and evil, yet they got their way. Especially in front of Emmah's glowing eyes giving me a look. She needed to grow up.

'You have to go,' I told her. Yes, she needed to leave because I had to

think without her presence influencing me. She would like to stay with the girls a little longer.

'Stop looking like a loving dog.' The voice scared me to death. flies off my lips.

She did not argue when I took her hand, leading her to the door. Before I could stop her, her lips touched my cheek, kissing me goodbye. I watched her leave. I walked out to my room without closing the door until it went away.

I was working! working hard to stay here to be here to not throw the

sauce I was stirring onto her blonde head. Putting the spoon down, slowly I stepped away from the pot. The woman was driving me crazy, I had to get away. A snarl ripped through my throat and out. Damn her!

'I'm going to go upstairs.' She could watch her children. They were hers, not mine.

She did not say anything, just watched me exit the kitchen, looking in through the door still open. My feet did not start pounding until I raced up the stairs and fled into my room.

Grabbing a pillow, I bit into it. It felt good, the ripping sound of the pillow, jerking my head from side to side. The thrashing tearing and cotton flying everywhere. It did not fight my shredding just fell to the floor in downy fluffs around my feet as I tried to catch my breath. She was doing this on purpose, she knew I was not just sitting on my ass. She knew how badly I wanted to find something to fight about.

Great now I was crying over a pillow! Wiping them away impatiently, was the worst case of Premenstrual syndrome ever. I was not even PMSing, I

was not. It was her and it was getting worse. Soon she would be trying to take over even more. What would I do if she tried to shift us? What if I found out I could and got stuck? Or could not shift at all?

Biting my lip helped. I had no answers for any of that, but I knew someone who could. Emmah was right, I had made up my mind a while ago about calling this girl my children. A few days ago, in fact. I needed help and she was the one who could help me if anyone could understand what it was like to get a second chance.

Walking to my closet I dug through the only box I could remember holding all my photos from my childhood and of my kids I had left to unpack, the one that sat in the back reaches and forgotten.

When I pulled out the small cardboard thing dust was lifted away into the darkness again. I ripped into it, and under the balls of paper sat the gifts Jaylynn had given me so long ago. Had it been months, years, ages ago? Yes, it had. Guilt washed over me looking at the past in all the memories.

I should have checked in long before now but after what had happened, to all these memories, I felt I should be happy to never hear from me again, even if I know that is not true.

My manuscripts lay under my bed and some next to my laptop just like I knew they would be, just like all the photos in the shoe box. I turned on the cell phone punching in the one number I knew.

The phone cut into my hand, I was a horrible companion, embarrassment should not have kept me from keeping in communication over the

years yet that was not so. Emmah was the best and only friend I had ever had. No one understood as I did. I could use a companion right now, so I trust her.

Scrolling down I hit the button before I lost my nerve, to call her back to me.

'Hello?' I sighed in relief, startled at how close to a sob it came to. I had missed her voice as much as I longed to hear Emmah's voice forgiving me. I missed my friend.

'Em?'

'Hey, are you okay? you sound like you have a cold there.' Concern lanced through the phone into my ear.

It has not even been a day, and I need her back.

She used my Naddalin name to speak to me, it was warmth spread through my limbs, and up into my throat willing it to relax. She knew all the parts of me and my past lives.

I could not talk to her If I did not relax. I wanted to break down and tell her everything, of the last past day.

I wanted her to be here so she could take my troubles away with her chatter.

It was love...

Part:

I wanted, I wanted her to be here or to go where I was. Just take them with us. What about the babies? Didn't I owe them something to make sure they were okay? I wanted to get away from her and travel, just take the girls and get out of here.

'What's wrong?'

'Em?' I repeated stupidly.

I wanted to tell her right then, about everything, anything, and everything. That I truly was sorry and begged for her forgiveness. I wanted to tell her about my new love for my pet wolf serving her most of all, for the past day or so.

'Emmah!' I jumped at her shouting over the phone.

'You have a white wolf now?'

'Why?'

'There goes my hearing,' I thought.

'Sorry girl, I wanted her.'

'Sorry that it took you forever and eternity to call or sorry for flaking out on me when you finally did what I wanted?'

'Both, I want now,' I said biting my lip.

'It's about time you called and let me know you didn't perish to yet another life in a balloon crash.'

'I would have left you a message if we had.' it was easy slipping into that teasing conversation with her. I had forgotten how easy it was.

'Mehm, and you would have been cursing my name to the seventh pit of hell if you finally go there.'

'The second I thought about it I was thinking about the flames over my body for eternity.'

The wolf snorted. Before silence settled on the other end. 'Missed you Em.'

'Missed you too. Sorry it took me so long, I- I um.'

'I know.' I was not sure she did. She had to be angry at me, I had left her. We had been in it together, before and I

had left her behind, tried too many times before.

'So, what is up,' I asked the children? she asked finally. 'I was just thinking about you.'

'You were?' Stupidly I repeated.

'Yep. Mommy was needling me to call you- she thinks something is- wrong; yet it is not.'

'Well, then that was another reason I was calling, to talk to the girls.' No going back. Just tell them, coaxing myself, I love them. Tell them. 'I need your help; you know that I am getting

stronger.' There was silence on the other end.

'What?' She asked finally.

‘You liked me better when I was weak and helpless.’

'I just tore a pillow to shreds.'

Part:

Then at that moment at that time in that place there was more silence. 'Very vicious. Did you just upgrade from paper to a computer?'

'It is not funny!' I hissed at her. I had never ripped anything before, well once, it was an IEP document from my

elementary years, and I did not even remember doing it.

'Your ring should-'

'I took it out, like they did me.' My voice dropped to a whisper. There was a second of silence before he exploded.

'Shit!' curse them and they and all those there were and was. 'Shit! What did you do that for! Emmah!'

'I didn't have a choice.' I defended myself.

'Unless it was life or death then it isn't good enough.' She growled at me,

saying it all starts with your own thinking and letting herself be drawn in by their comments.

'It was.' I told her. I could almost picture her in her room biting her lip ring glaring at her computer screen.

'Then I'm coming to get you and take you on a trip, you need to get out.'

'That isn't necessary.' I winced. 'Ash- was on the line also in the background saying this, yet I responded, 'I am okay.'

'No, you are not. Do you have any clue how much danger you are in!

You are just like your dad was... Wincing again, I told her. 'Ash, my granddad is dead- and you really did not know her, you are going off what you have heard in the past.'

'What do you mean he is dead!' Pulling the phone from my ear helped.

'Well,' I amended.

'Just think he is part of the undead now. He is a vampire.' My granddad is one of those who let lose a stream of curses through the phone, yelling the whole time. There was a thump in the background which was

better to ignore. He just fell out of her chair. She could be clumsy.

'You take my word for this he is on the run. You hear me, he is part of the group. Maneuver. I am going to get you.'

'Do you need cash?'

'-No!'

'Ash.' I knew I should not have done this. At least not to mention the vampires. 'No but can you tell me the names of the covens in Houston? Please?'

Um- Wary.

'Why?'

'So, I can stay away from them, Emmah doesn't where they are, I haven't gotten a chance to ask Ash-'

'Who is Ash? Who is this girl.'

This conversation was turning into the joy of my life. 'Emmah is my neighbor and Aidann is her dad.'

'Ash- does she like you?'

'Focus, Ash about the coven.'

'Huh, so do you like her?'

'Ash!'

'Does she suspect anything about you?'

'Uh-' Let us just get this out of the way now so we can both move on with life.

'She knows everything. About me, just like you do. She is a friend of mine.'

There was a hiss on the other end of the line, had I killed her?

'Get the hell out of there- today, tonight. I will be down there in a few hours- Grab the girls and go!'

'Ash I can't go; they have to go there on your granddad's list to darn their blood.'

-'Who!'

I opened my mouth, and I told them.

-'My Granddad.'

'Son of a- cow. How did this happen?'

'Long story.' Ash murmured in the background.

'I have nothing going on in my life, let us hear it.' I leaned back in my

chair; I heard the creaking of it. 'What has been going on around here?'

'Emmah, why are you just now calling me?' She growled menacingly at me.

Told her everything. Leaving out Em's kisses and Ash asking me out on a date, was sure to come in time.

I did tell them that he was the son of Iris who was also my granddad's new girlfriend in this world.

Your sisters told her about the twins, and they are after blood like always with you and what you love. It

was impossible to tell them everything without speaking about the 'Moon-Bloods.'

Bringing things full circle there was absolute quiet. 'Ash?' I asked.

Nevaeh- 'As always' I said, another round is coming.

'I didn't think- we were so sure that Devin would go back and try to get me by now, just like the grandfather.'

'You aren't going into a vampire coven.' I cut off my thoughts. He was not there to stop me so he could think about what she wanted. 'You should have

called me when your dad hungered, way before you had to take out your ring.'

'Should, would, could. Ash, please? Just tell me where they are.'

'Give me a few days Emmah.' She spoke. 'Vampires aren't my forte.' wires were.

'I know.'

'Sweet baby Jesus, why vampires?' Emmah smiled at her grumbling.

'Would you have preferred it to be the fey?' She shuddered.

'Ack! Hell no. If you ever see one you take off. You hear me.'

'Crystal clear.'

'But will you listen to me.' She grumbled. 'You were always hardheaded.' She hissed out a curse the instant the words went out of her mouth. I did not understand why at first, she was only teasing, and she was right. I did not listen when I thought I was right, right up until till.

I shut my eyes and kept them closed. 'Shoot.' She said again. 'Emmah, I'm sorry I didn't mean to bring it up.' When I did not answer. 'Emmah?'

'No, it wasn't your fault, it's all right.'

'You'll be all right?'

'Trust...'

Not! 'Yes, sure. I am fine.' Her silence told me he did not believe me, that I could.

The clock on my nightstand told me we had been at this for two hours, out my window the sun was sinking.

Alanna, I needed to go pick the twins up, or so my mind slipping told me to do. That was a good reason to get off the phone.

Part:

(The phone call)

'Hey, Ash. I must go pick up my sister.'

'Sister?' She was confused again.

'Little sister, half-sister, really, but she- she fits right in.' Ash would adore her, and Bridget. The girls would love her also. I wondered what he would think of Lily? 'Yes, she is remembered by the Moon-Bood's now and nothing more than a memory.'

'She is over at the tiny house!' She squeaked.

'I am not bothered by it anymore. Lily is the twin's godparent, and she is herself, part of them also.'

'Emmah! How did you get yourself so caught up in the wolves' also?'

‘Um… not sure.’

'You tell me.' Telling them I got to my feet and gathered my stuff. 'Ash, I really have to go, there is a face looking at me through my window.'

'Alright, Emmah recollects what I said.'

'I then ran as first as I could at any sign of trouble coming my way.'

'The first sight and thought.' I reworked the image as I ran. 'Call me and beware.'

-And-

...I knew he would. He was always there.

'Okay, got to go. Ash, converse to you later, I put down the phone.'

Ash’s real name is ‘Никогда,’ which translates to Never.

Fitting for her over the fact that was the world she used the most around us all.

Not three months later?'

'Никогда- Never.'

'No, call me. I promise I will pick it up.'

'You better.' She growled before hanging up. Leaving me to stare at the receiver.

What was up with girls and saying goodbye?

The cell vibrated in my hand, a horrible ringtone going off in my room. 'Hello?'

'Just checking.' Ash's voice filled my ear. 'You're not doing that again, Emmah, telling everyone your introspections.'

My throat started to strangle itself. 'Yes,' I squeaked. 'I won't, I promise.'

'For anything?'

'For anything.' I promised.

'Bye.'

The phone was cut off and I stood in my room unsure whether I had done the right thing.

I was not sure whether I wanted to laugh or cry, knowing’ that I was facing death yet again, by the hands of my own blood line.

I was torn between calling her back and asking her to come to get me or throwing the phone into the toilet and never calling her again. All of it had me shaking my head. What had I done?

'You're going to die in seven days, my mind was racing,' it felt like someone was telling me this.

Only I did not have seven days like those lucky S of Bs in those urban legends, I had to run and fly away.

TWO! In two days, I would be far, far away, I was going camping with Em and her family, in a grotto cave, that only we knew about.

I had spent my whole life avoiding this kind of thing. Self-preservation tells you to do this. I must be insane to throw my last ounce of reason out the second-story window, looking at myself in the reflections with my pair of dark indigo eyes and a flashy smile.

That night darkness was falling upon the room. What had I been thinking? That you want to make her happy.

A voice whispered. Bridget. Sighing, I got up. Outside Emmah was helping Lily now a vampire angel, to load the twins into the car, they were going out for a while.

Family time, Lily called it. That was good for them and it gave me time to do what I needed to. Both baby girls were a Sleep.

When you are unsure of what you are waiting on, whether it is good or

bad, it means time flies. Two days came and went. They flew by in a blur until the night that Lily was coming for me. Lily was sitting in her room with the twins, Emmah was sitting with me in front of the television. Her head leaned on my knee 'letting me' stoke her hair. Her words, not mine.

The television blared with Wizards of Waverly Place, a Disney show that Emmah loved as a child. Selena Gomez's voice sounded in the room and it all sounded in one long roar. 'Are you nervous?' Alli a friend and a companion,

staying over for the night, asked. 'You're shaking.'

I jumped, looking at the televisions. It was a commercial. She could talk to me only during commercials.

'Why would I be nervous?' I asked her, Emmah turned in my lap until she could see me.

'You shouldn't be scared, it is only Lily.' She said waving it off. Hadn't I just told Little Princess Know It All I wasn't frightened?

'I'm not scared of Lily,' telling her helped me believe it. Partially, I wasn't scared of Lily. She had saved my life after all. She was a friend, my friend.

That scared me more than knowing I was about to go camping with five werewolves just a few days back. Five moons ago- tooled with wolves in the cave, Lily found me anyway and it was fine- it was all fine. Her tug was strong tonight, the sun hadn't completely set and she was already tugging my mind. My spine wanted to bend into knots and snarl that it shouldn't go.

I was at pace with the idea of letting go of the past.

Part:

(Back at my home the cottage)

Knowing I was not going to dye... by the hands of my sisters, The hugs can again, like years lost all pushed back together in a moment.

'You're really warm.' I- Nevaeh said to Lily. Emmah rubbed my arm laying her head on my knee. In a few hours, that night said see you have a family, after all, it would feel like she

was laying on a stovetop. When moon fever started its creep.

'Can I come in the room with you said Madelyn?' She asked again for the three hundredth time tonight, that she could not sleep. 'I don't want to go to bed without Mommy.' She said to me.

'Well she likes Kristen so much, does Kristen count, a child to you also?'

Words bubbled to my lips and hissed out. 'Emmah- who is Kristen?'

'My grandchild.'

'Mom's friends are past family members.' Emmah told me a matter of fact. 'She is coming over tonight.'

'Oh, have you met her?'

Emmah shrugged, the show had come back on and there was nothing more I would be able to get out of her until the next break.

The doorbell rang and I wouldn't get anything from her until the next day. When I came back. She got up with me answering the door.

'No.' Her mother didn't want her to go camping with us. She had school tomorrow.

'But Ash-'

'Is Ash and you are Emmah.' Her mother would lose her mind if I took her from the house tonight.

Lily had become more protective than usual, more secretive too. At least she spent more time with Emmah when she did come home, they went out to eat and shop. She didn't talk to me unless she needed something done.

'Your mother wouldn't like it.' I finished watching my little sister make a face, that would not go to bed.

'She doesn't like anything.' Alli told me tiredly.

Tell me about it.

'I want to go.' She told Lily in greeting.

Lily, to his credit, kept a straight face. 'Not if Lily doesn't want you to.'

'She won't care.' Emmah told us. 'She can spend more time with Kristen.'

Lily's brows crinkled.

'Don't know.' Lily was good at keeping her secrets.

'Are you ready to go tonight, we can camp in the front yard with the girls?'

'Yeah.' no!

Don't go!

~*~

My gut screamed at me not to leave. Fighting it down, I let Lily take my hand and lead me out the door.

'Wait,' Alli still hadn't closed the door. She stood there, looking at us and walking to the sleeping bags she had

just thrown out the door. As she pitched the dark green tent.

'Alli, my cell number is on your phone if you need me, were just going to be right outside the door here in the yard.'

I had told her earlier but when she watched television she rarely paid attention. We had her full attention. Emmah nodded and finally shut the door and the glow of the light flickering in a beam was getting smaller as the arched door latched. The solidity of what I was doing settled in my gut as we pulled away.

'I have lost my mind, to think this is okay to do in this world were in what about all the wild animals.' Mumbling helped. Lily grabbed my arm feeling my approaching thoughts of needing to leave it alone.

'They'll be all right.' She murmured to me. I didn't answer, the closer we got to her house the harder it became to breathe.

The moon when we climbed out of the car had gotten higher, the song was louder, a seductive hum in my ears.

Even in the cool night air Lily's hand on my arm felt like she had soaked it in hot water.

The heat seeping into my skin mixed with the warmth that was already there. Lily open the door letting us into the house, my insides screamed as he closed the door.

'Emmah!' A head peeked around the corner from the kitchen before the whole body came into view. Ash tackled me, sending us both back against the door.

'You're really coming! She said you wouldn't but Lily said you would.'

'I did not!'

Then another voice rang through the room followed by a body. Ash, looking stunning as always popped into the room glaring at her younger sister sleeping in my arms. The anger in Ash's sapphire eyes had me pressing further into the door. It only made Ash stick out her tongue. 'Brat.' Ash muttered flipping a strand of her fiery red hair out of her face.

'So are you!' Ash yelled from my arms.

'Not like you!'

'So are!' Ash yelled clinging to me. The heat searing from her body made me dizzy. They all were radiating with an inner heat that made the entryway an inferno.

'Help me.' Lily seemed very content with watching the show. He was laughing at me!

'I obliterate you.' I mouthed over Ash's head. She cracked up.

'What are you two yelling about now!' Another slightly red-headed figure waltzed into the room glaring between her two daughters, it was Ash. She saw

me and smiled. 'Hello honey, how are you this lovely dawns.'

Nevaeh- 'Good.' A little queasy but okay. She nodded before turning to she and her daughters, each in turn. 'Go help your Mom pack up the tent. Now.' they ran.

...Tent?

'Yes they wanted to sleep outside in the middle of the night.'

I remember...

Part:

'Lily said that the two of you weren't going to shift. You'll need a tent

to sleep in. Honey we wouldn't have you sleeping outside.' She explained. 'We packed some food for you, over the fact I know that you are going to do this again tonight. No meat. Lily said you didn't eat meat anymore.'

She was babbling, Lily didn't babble she was always in control of herself when I saw her, not science we were kids. That was what the full moon did to her, takes you back to when you were children in your state of mind, it made them anxious to change.

'When are we leaving?'

At five, to be up at the rig for the brake of moonlight.

'As soon as we locates the other tent you can come with us.' She told me walking toward the kitchen, Lily grabbed my hand leading us after her. A movie-perfect picnic basket sat on the kitchen counter packed to the brim with food, fruit, and drinks.

It will be a night out with the wolfs, and blood drinkers and be wild in the moonlight. Just like us become animals for the night.

My stomach flipped slamming into my spine. The vibrations slither along my spine.

Em asked. 'Emmah, you're looking a bit pale there.' Lily swiveled her head.

'Fine.' She was in worse shape than I was, in her feelings. From the inside out she was glowing with Moon's fever. Lily wasn't any better. 'Maybe I should go with you another- time.'

'Oh no you don't.' Lily squeezed my hand saying come on. 'You promised you would come tonight.'

'But-'

'I won't let anything happen to you.'

'What about you.' She waved off my concern, it wasn't anything to worry about. Not to her. It was my concern. 'You should go running tonight.'

'I'll be all right to sit this one out.' Lily told me. 'I shifted a few weeks ago.' Despite the last full moon wasn't as heavy pulling as this one. Even I felt her demanding tug. 'Don't worry about me, it isn't a sin to sit one night out.'

Lily groaned. 'She hadn't done that in a while.' She told me with a wink. 'Never found a reason to miss a run.'

'Oh lord. You put me in this too, I am there- I am there.'

'She said she was happy to help,' Lily assured me. We both turned to Luna, and she nodded.

'Hey Emmah!' The rumbling easygoing voice could only belong to Meagan. Lily's look-alike in my mind of when were kids. She walked into the room weighed down with poles and rods all pushed into bags. 'How is it going?'

'Fine,' I told her letting her hug me.

She was burning hot to touch, her need to Change was too strong. How did she keep it all contained? Where did he hide it? When the moon rode. Everyone knew it. It wasn't just because you could see it on her face either, the whole house tingled with it.

'How did she get you to come along with us?' Emmah whispered to me glaring at her child who didn't bat an eyelash.

'She threaten to annoy me for the rest of my life if I didn't.' I told Emmah in a mournful voice.

'Like she isn't going to do that anyway.'

I- Nevaeh grunted from the door. 'Sorry, you're kind of stuck with her.' My stomach beat on my navel and the whole room heard it. A smile crept onto all of their lips and I couldn't look at them.

'Not if I make her life the biggest living hell,' I told Ash, her grin widening.

'In that case, I'll give you five days.' Appealing to Ash I told her.

'Your sister has such little faith in my abilities.' She grins even wider.

'Are you going to change with us?'

The happy easy-going mood evaporated within seconds. Everyone froze, Lily hurriedly picked up the bag she had dropped. No one wanted to look at me. Except for Ash. 'Nope,' I told her in my lightest voice. 'I'm not, someone has to baby sit you I want you to come with us.'

'She can come too.' She had a good point. 'We'll have enough for Seeker.' I wasn't even about to ask what that was.

'Afraid not this time.' I told her.

'Another time?' She asked.

'Maybe.' I nodded letting her take my hand and pull it.

'Well, come on before the sun sets.' Mae took my arm pulling me from the kitchen and picking up my hand. Ash bounced in front of us out the door. Luna and Aiden took up the rear. 'We are

taking two separate cars and are going to meet you there.' she winked.

Lily pulled me away from her so smoothly that I wondered if they had planned this.

Outside the sun was beginning to set. It sunk taking my stomach with it and a bit of my bravery.

The moon was hidden behind a few wisps of clouds. Its silvery glow hid by the golden hues of the setting sun.

They all watched as Lily loaded me into her black old truck packing all

our stuff into the trunk before jumping in.

Her family piled into a different car, a hand-brushed and highhandedly painted white Chevy truck with the wood cab, whitewashed, and side rails, I had never seen before. They pulled off first and we followed. Ash waved at us from the back seat. Lily stuck out her tongue, Ash made a rude gesture from inside the car.

'Well-' Clearing my throat didn't help. 'Where do you suppose she learned that one from?'

Lily growled following her parents. 'I have no idea.'

'Uh-huh.' Leaning back in my seat helped the knots in my back. I'd been good with not showing it, if she could hide how badly she needed to change then I could hide a little back pain.

'We can turn around, hang out at the house and camp on the den floor.' She said quietly. I jumped. 'I don't want you hurting.' how did she...

'No.' I decided quickly, she dangled something tempting in front of me but I had promised. 'I'm fine.' I would

be okay, it was something that happen every full moon. I could deal, for her and myself. Yeah, I was scared but I was curious too.

She was about to argue, even though she was the one with this idea. He was wavering on whether this had been a good idea. I saw it.

Taking her hand, was something I never would have done. I squeezed it. 'No, I'm fine. Seriously I want to go with you.' Her fingers laced through my cording our fingers together.

'If it gets to be too much, we can head back.' She told me. Lily was waiting for me to agree.

'I talked to Haven a few days ago, about this meeting.' Why was I telling her this?

She didn't' twitch. Not even a blink. 'Really?'

'Yeah, she is just as confused as you are. She doesn't like vampire angles.'

Part:

Lily turned away from the road to look at me. 'Only an idiot would love

vampires.' She said darkly. 'They are too capricious.' I wanted to tell her so wired.

'She didn't know anything about the coven down here.' I went on thinking about what I told her. 'She is doing some research on it.'

'I hope she isn't at home giggling.' I snorted, Haven didn't giggle.

The thought of my best friend on her laptop in her wolf cave googling anything was forbidden funny. 'Ash is a Logophobic,' I told her. 'She thinks if you notable then you become an invalid.'

'Then she would think I'm straight retarded.' Lily muttered. 'Bing makes the world go around in my world. It is my homepage you know.'

'Are you serious.'

'Couldn't make it up if I tried,' She promised. Under us, the car started to Maggie and jump. We had turned off the dirt road and into a field facing towards a large cover of angel oak trees, along a long rock wall, and tall wheat fields.

'How far back does this place go?' 'All the way back to one tree at the end of a long rock wall.' She said. I

asked knowing he knew what I was talking about.

'A few miles, this area is all undeveloped. A lot of deer and rabbits live off in here now because of all the development going on around here down in the valley.'

I nodded noticing something else. Lily guessed what I had missed.

'Maggie took them further down so they could change without scaring you,' Lily told me to put the old truck in park, that was Maggie's grandpa.

I nodded again looking around outside. The sun was almost gone and the moon was taking her place, the flicker of the lights from the truck lit the path.

It wouldn't be long now before she started her singing. Right now she hummed her song into all the ears of her children. We all knew what was to come.

My wolf raised her head, whining in anticipation. Moon, free-

'Emmah?'

I jumped, Lily pulled my hand in her. 'Are you ready?'

'A little bit.' I teased opening my car door and sliding out. She didn't need to see me shaking, fighting for control in my head.

Together we unloaded, she carried the backpack and tent and handed me the food. Before taking my hand and leading us into the tall trees and the wild.

She was patient with me, I knew I was slowing her down. Every step sent a crunch under my feet from the limbs and twigs falling. I jumped at every creak.

She held my hand close, a lifeline in the fading light keeping me close at her side. 'No one is around here.' She told me quietly on my tenth jump into the air.

'You would smell them a mile coming.' She was right, the wind was sending breezes our way. Anyone coming would be reeked long before they reached us. I relaxed a little more.

'Good, come on.' She tugged me further into the woods where the trees got bigger and further in between, and all that was warm glowing and pulsating

flickers and indications of the oil railroad lantern.

'You know where you are going?

'Yes, I am trying my best to keep us away from the deer herds. That way we will not run into; my family, you know all the wolves.' She said, looking around.

'They like to run west of here. A lot more space.' She stopped sitting down on our belongings. 'Here is a good spot to see all the glowing eyes up on the hill of my decadents'.'

She crouched down digging into the pack and coming out with

possessions. She handed me the lanterns. saying hold it up to see all the eyes around us now, with all the growling.

'Do you want to set up the tent? Or do you want to get the firewood?'

'That is like asking do you want to sleep outside, or do you want to freeze,' I told her. She barked out a laugh tugging toward her putting her head on my neck.

'Did you forget that wires don't freeze, we have our own built in a furnace.'

'How nice of you.' I wheezed as her nose nuzzled my neck; her lips pressed into my collar bone. 'I don't have that luxury.'

'I could help with that.' She purrs but you would have to sit close. Sucking in a puff my words failed me, my body was failing me. Even when I wanted to be angry at her for touching me like this, I could not be. Not when I wanted to turn my head onto her and press my body as close as I could. Not when I wanted the hand that she had on her waist to move shot!

She was there, slipping into my consciousness watching us. A whine escaped from my lips, her whine. She wanted her to do all those things.

Ash heard and pulled away. 'I was teasing you,' she swore to squeeze my hand. ' I did not mean to'

'It isn't your fault.' I told her to jump up, my body screamed in protest. I wanted to scream in protest at leaving her. 'I'll get the wood.' I told her with a small salute to erase the worried look off her face. I marched into the woods shining my flashlight on the smallest of

movements. It worked; I heard her choking on chuckles as I gathered wood.

The silence of the woods was creepy, just knowing what was happening around us made my skin crawl but I was not scared. 'Where did your family go?'

'They are doing their best not to make you uncomfortable.' Ash pulled me closer to the fire he had built.

'They did not want to make me uncomfortable?' I repeated stupidly. Ash nodded. Understanding dawn, they did not want to scare me when they Changed.

Ash began digging in the basket coming out with marshmallows and gram crackers, she pulled out more good-looking junk too handing some of it to me.

'They know this is... difficult for you.' Ash hedged. 'They wanted to know why I didn't just take you to a drive-in movie like a normal person.'

'Why didn't you?' I asked. Why couldn't he be like a normal girl?

She rolled her neck popping her vertebra. 'Because, normal is boring and if we had gone to a drive-in movie, yes it has its perks.' She wiggled her eyebrows

meaningfully until I blushed. 'But I would have had to take you home to Lily and I thought you could use a break.'

-And-

'So, this is you trying to be thoughtful.' Rolling my eyes, I put a marshmallow into the fire. 'You and your guide by wire logic.'

-Then-

Ash did not say anything, instead she leaned over brushing her shoulder into mine. 'Was it good logic?'

'So far...' Like- um putting my more together. 'So good.' Then like-

taking a bite it was hard to not be self-conscious when she was so focused on me.

'I've never been camping before, unless you count the few times when I was little, and Alison let us sleep in the truck bed sometimes.'

'That counts.' Ash nodded making her own smore. A monster of a smore. Two stacks of graham crackers, five melted marshmallows, and two crumbled-up heresy blocks.

'If you weren't where you would be going into a stupor,' or cardiac arrest.

'Want some?' She held it out to me. I shrugged, what the heck.

Biting down into several layers of chocolatey goodness.

'You took half!' She accused me as I munched.

'Half is some.' I contradicted taking a swig of my drink. The coke burned my throat fizzing out everything.

'You have some-' she motions towards his mouth.

'What?' I wiped my mouth.

'You have some marshmallows here.' She used her thumb to wipe it

away, flinging it into the fire. 'Some chocolate here.' Again, she used thumb, wiping a spot near my mouth.

My entire world became a spiraling vortex of heat burning me down to my toes. It was worse than when she normally touched me with the moon's pull and no silver ring on my skin to keep my wolf in check.

'Emmah.' And I did not care anymore. Her chocolate-coated breath was on my face. I must have zoned out; she was not this close earlier.

Her lips brushed mine, trying to see what I would do.

When I did not do anything at all he did it again. Her mouth tasted of chocolate, melted Heresy's chocolate.

Sweet and warm. It took everything away but her and her warmth that spread from my head down to my toes.

With the moon riding her, her kiss was not as soft. Not like it normally was, caressive and gentle.

Tonight, it was firm, borderline possessive no less sweet. My wolf responded to it, a tickle right on the edge of my conscious coming forward- no. Oh, damn it! Could I not do anything

tonight without her trying to take control of me?

Ash let me pull away we were both sucking in for air.

'I- I think I got a little carried away.' She did not look the least bit sorry as she slid out of her chair onto the ground pulling me with her warping an arm around my shoulder.

-Then-

Like- it was slow, testing.

She was trying to see if I would pull away, not a chance.

My body did not want to move away from her, so I leaned into her.

Ash sighed out a breath. 'That wasn't what I planned to do, just so you know.' She said finally. 'I had it rehearsed in my head about how I would kiss you.'

'But you already have before.' She confused me; she had kissed me at least three times now.

Then at that moment and at that time once in her automobile, after I woke up after Jenny attacked. She kissed me goodnight after a dinner her family had invited Liv and Maddie and I over

for, we almost got caught that time. Now there was this one, my favorite so far running. 'What made this one so different, all of us girls would come to be around the glow of the fire?'

Part:

'It is the first time I've taken you out on a date,' she told me squeezing my shoulders.

'What were you going to do?' I asked curiously that she seemed so put out over it. 'You can tell me since you have just ruined this epic moment in life.' she poked me.

'Be nice.' She chastises. 'I wasn't going to kiss you until we were about to head into our tents.' my stomach twisted into a knot.

'The classic goodnight kisses.' I mussed. 'Overrated, overdone, very unoriginal.' It did not seem like anything Ash would do, Ash was original.

-Then-

Her nose wrinkled. 'Didn't think about that, seemed like a clever idea at the time.' She gave me a sideways glance. 'What do you mean classic and over done?' She growled.

'I mean that in every movie I have seen.' ~*~

'All the movies we watched?' her lips quirked.

'In all the movies I have seen.' I persisted. 'It is the kiss goodnight; they go to the place they will separate. Both are awkward and the whole thing looks awkward. It just looks like there was too much thought put into it.'

'How many times have you been kissed?' She questions through me off.

'What?' I yelped trying to move away. 'What does that have to do with anything?'

'Curious.'

Of course, she was. 'Not-not many.' voluntarily Ash was my first voluntary kiss.

'She turned his head fully towards me. 'It doesn't matter.' I persisted in wanting her to drop the whole thing now. 'You were my first real kiss!'

'What does that mean.' She asked, leaning in. I wanted to hide.

'It means that you are the first person that I have wanted to kiss me-' my mouth shut with a click. Had I just said that aloud?

'You want me to kiss you?' Ash asked, her face showing how much he liked the idea.

'I-' In the bat of an eye her face hovered in front of mine. Her eyes twinkle orange with the stars above us.

'You like it when I do this.' Her lips pressed against mine.

'I-' Did I want to be honest. 'I don't mind you kissing me.'

She fell back into the dirt with a thump. 'You're killing me, Emmah.' I giggled.

Part:

'Would it help if I told you that I love kissing you?'

My throat went dry. 'I did not want it to scare you. I know how easily scared you are.' She went on sitting up again.

'I like touching you.' She confessed. 'I just like being around you.'

Me too when Ash was around; it was irritating but I looked forward to it. She would never hear me say that.

'Now,' she went on. 'Back to our earlier discussion.

Who else kissed you?

You must not have wanted them too. It would have ruined our moment.' I laughed fighting off the hoar in my gut. A slicing pain shot through my spine twisting it into a pretzel of curves and twist. I fell back into the ground hoping that it would help.

'You're impossible.' I told her waving it off. Trying to play it off. Ash did not buy it.

'Does it have something to do with Strange?' She asked quietly.

Ash- a shudder ran down my spine and over my body. She said the s-word. Stangetown, Nebraska was where I grew up, unfortunately.

With my mom and her husband. Nic and I had not had the best childhood, we lived in fear and doubt.

Especially me, every day, I had to fight to keep my sanity not just

because of whom I lived with but because of what I am. A half breed, a 'Moonblood.' I am still not sure if I walked away with it all still intact.

'Yes,' I nodded. 'But I don't want to talk about that tonight.' I told her. 'No monsters tonight.' She wanted to argue but the look on my face changed her mind.

'Anything else? It is melancholy all we talk about are my worries.' It was true, that was all we discussed. 'Tell me something about you.'

'When I was five, I had a stuffed animal.'

Ash told me about this in the past. 'Her name was Hunter. I would not go to sleep without him.'

Cracking a grin.

'That was random. What was he?'

'A frog.' Leaning forward onto my knees, she did too.

'Very scary.' She did not seem like the type to ever need a stuffed animal. I would peg her as a hot wheel's person. A stuffed bear at the most. 'Why a frog?'

'Because my mom picked it for me as a birthday gift.' Ash smiled. 'I got her a pink pig. She still has it somewhere.'

'Dad and I did things like that when I was younger.

He got me an elephant that was bigger than I was.' I used to try to ride it and cry because it never went anywhere.

Dad, my stomach did sicken flips at the thought of him, not being there for me when I needed him most.

'Is this the usual spot your family comes to shift?'

She nodded.

'Every moon we get. We usually stick to this area, a lot of good games around her and less distractions.' She shrugged. 'It isn't as good as hunting back home, but it is surprisingly good tonight.'

'Back home?'

She never spoke of where she was from, only that her and her family had moved away when she was seven.

Even now she rocked back and forth. 'Up North.' That is all I get.

'Back home there was a lot of good hunting around this time the elk would be grazing, the calves would be around. I miss being home sometimes, and my past life.'

Then my stomach knotted. 'We didn't hunt them though.' She added seeing my face. 'Sometimes we did go cow tipping.' What was that?

'You sound like you miss it.' It was hard to miss that. Did he think about going home often? Was she planning on ever going back?

'I do sometimes.' Ash shrugged, tossing her head spewing curls around

her young sweet face. 'Everyone I know is there, except my family.'

'Do you still talk to them?'

'No.'

'Why not?' I asked, even though I am just as guilty of it as she is.

'It's complicated.' She edged.

I grunted. 'Look who is trying to be mysterious now. Ms. You Can Tell Me Anything.' Then why can't it go both ways?

'You have enough without being concerned about me.' She stated.

She was right but that did not mean I wanted to not care or be concerned. ripping sounds pulsed around me, eating away at skin, my chest. 'I'll be concerned for you no matter what.' It was automatic when I took her hand and squeezed it. What was I doing?

She whined in my head, and then transformed into my wolf before my eyes in the moon light.

She was concerned for Ash too, we wanted her to be happy free. She, we could feel how trapped he was. Trapped, confined, too hot. Run! Running made

everything better! Ash wanted to Change-

Shots of heat flare off along my limbs spreading all over. They burned too hot and made me cold. I had never felt anything like this before, the aching pain accompanied them spreading from my spine inward.

NO!

'Oh Shit.'

Hissing strangled through the air from my mouth. It had to be me.

I was the one in pain. The heat of the night wafting from the moon down

upon her children intensified. Licking upon my skin, in my eyes and ears. All over my skin, everywhere.

'Emmah?' Ash called in a wolfish howl; I could not answer. My body felt funny, my mouth would not open right, it popped when I tried.

When I moved my skin itched and body ached.

Not! What have I done?

Was I parting from time and space?

What was happening to me? All the fear did not stop my insides and hers

from elation. She was satisfied, so happy she wanted to sing. What had she done to us?

'Emmah!' Lily's hands were shaking me, trying to get a response. I did not know how to react to her. She had to help me! 'Don't do this, not now. Emmah, you cannot Change here.'

My stomach rolled. The food I had eaten did not sit well in my changing body. It wanted out. I wanted out of this. My legs stretched. They were different, shorter. Foreign.

'Emmah, stop! Do not do this.' Ash must have rolled me onto my back.

They looked different in these eyes. The sky was darker, almost black.

Infinitely black with shining sliver diamonds sprinkled across it.

They were just as precious, enough to make you feel worthless in comparison. 'My parents are coming. Can you hold on.' She knew I could not. I had no control over this.

I had never changed before but it had to be over soon. What else was there to be changed, what else was there to be broken down and rearranged? Ash sounded so worried; she was I could

smell it on her. Sharp and tangy hitting my nose in a slap over her normal scent.

'I'm okay.' Like telling her helped me believe it. 'I'll be okay.' It did not come out in words. My assurances came forth into the night in whines and hums. I could not talk!

'Calm down.' Ash grabbed my fur, leaning on me trying to keep me down on the dirt. She was too loud, it was all too much, the sounds the smells. Too much! 'Emmah, look at me sweetheart.'

Human me would have been amused he only used pet names when I scared her.

Her face hovered over me not giving me a choice. She was even more handsome through these eyes.

Humans did not see the variations of hues in the dark.

No human eye would have ever been able to see the violet baby blues that danced into something much darker.

No human eye would be able to say they could make out every mole she had.

Every shine on her irresistible black curls.

No one could see how sexy her lips were even when not tilted upward.

A part of me hoped that she had never been this worried about anyone as she was about me.

A sharp cracking sound accompanied by slices down my back cut me from the head down to my butt.

I screamed, had to. The pain was too much to keep to myself, I had to share it with the night as it went on forever.

Under my howls of pain, I heard her, I was hurting. No, I was not. I could not move, how was I hurting her? 'You'll be all right. I am sorry. Emmah. Sorry.'

She should not say that sorry did not change what was happening and it was not his fault.

She should not be sorry. Sorry for people who did not have a clue how to explain what they had done. Ash had

not done anything to me. I whine. 'Not your fault.'

Being able to Change was something I did not expect, and on some level pray, I was not able to do.

I was being proven wrong. I was changing from the inside out right down to into my bones that had been melted and melded to realign and bend over.

I felt it, the difference down to the taste that was in my mouth. Dirt and Lily's breath, he smelled of chocolate and Coca-cola.

I could feel everything, smell everything, see everything. Everything came to me, everything but the silence. It crept up on us bringing stillness with it.

All the heat died away finally dissolving into my blood and out through my breath.

Puffing out into mist into Lily's face. Her nose crinkled.

My breath did not stink. did not think it did at least.

Ash said something. 'Please don't panic.' She was trying to calm me

down some more. 'Emmah, I'm so sorry.' Lily's face was horrified. It only meant one thing; I had changed.

A huff yapped from my jaw. 'No, I am not all right!' It was sharp, on the verge of panicking. I could not stay like this forever.

Oh my gosh! What if I was like this forever!

Rolling onto my stomach was not difficult. Everything was shaking but nothing fell. Ash crouched low only a few feet from me. She kept drawing closer.

'Luna and Maggie are on their way.' She said this already when I was changing. How did they know to come, did wolves have electrostatic precipitators built into their heads?

Part:

Not! They could not come now when I was like this. They would hunt me. That is what Nevaeh did, they did not like half Nevaeh like me. Luna or Maggie would not do it to me on purpose, but their Nevaeh could get the upper hand on them, I should know.

Run! That is what I had to do. Run and get away from here.

Getting to my feet was not a problem, staying on them was.

They wobbled and kept knocking into each other. One foot was walked, the others tried to follow and tripped the first. I stumbled and fell back where I had started.

A cough rang in our clearing. Followed by another furious attempt to wheeze. Lily's head was ducked to the side and her shoulders were hacking furiously.

Do you not dare laugh at me!' I growled. Do not you dare.

Her cough cut off immediately. She was not amused anymore. 'I'm sorry.'

Rolling my eyes, did wolves roll their eyes? It was the hardest thing to wrap around the idea that I had changed.

'Hey.' I blinked; Ash crouched in front of me leaning in close, too close. Whoa!

Suddenly the entire campsite was between us. 'How did I do that?'

I could not walk but my legs would bolt. typical.

'Nice...' Ash approved? She was grinning across our little fire at me. She did not have to look so scornful.

'What was nice.' I asked, wishing he could understand me. Could a Nevaeh in human form understand a Nevaeh in wolf form? Crap and other junk! I was a wolf. A real wolf, I needed to get that into my head.

Howls rang up through the trees, they were close. Way too close and closing in, my new annoying ears told me a few yards coming from behind me. I bolted, toward Ash and around

taking off into the trees. In my head that was what happened.

My legs darted around Ash not counting on her to be ready. Two arms wrapped around my middle; we fell into a heap in the dirt.

'No, let me go!' I must get away. She knew this, I told him. It was the whole reason I had spent the last years of my life in near insanity and pain, to keep this from happening.

'We are going to seriously work on your flight tactics sweetheart. You are too skittish.' Ash huffed, still holding me in place. I whined, why was he doing

this! She knew what I was, they all did. They would have to hunt me. 'No one is going to hurt you.' Ash tried to soothe me again. It simmered off and away on my nerves doing nothing. 'I promise.'

Her promises better be something more than spoken stifling air. If they were not, I did not have had a prayer. We both watched as the first dark figure emerged from the trees swiftly followed by another two more brought up the rear. What had Ash gotten me into!

Reading my mind. 'You're okay.' Ash soothed rolling off me but keeping

hold of my neck. I could not move now if I wanted to. There was not a point, it was not as though I would make it extremely far. There was no way I could compete with these giants of fur and nature.

The one leading was nothing more than a tall shadow that could be ridden like a huge pony on steroids. She was huge and black, there was not a piece of fur on her that was not ebony black. Tall, dark, and assured, she had every right to be an alpha, used to be one. Weren't they dominant?

My mind scrambled to remember what Haven told me about Nevaeh’s wolves. 'Alphas dominated who were strong enough to hold a pack together, as one or as two or in the mind of the others or body.' That was what she said.

Sounded right enough. It would be a challenging thing to believe that anyone would try and tangle with Maggie. She was just that terrifying in this form of dark black fur and bunched muscles with the sparkling white canines to back it up. Her eyes were still grey

thunderclouds, that was the only thing that told me it was her.

Beside her stood a fiery red Nevaeh, she was smaller but not by much. Her willowy neck lowered her head sniffing the air beside her me before she turned to us. A yap snapped from her throat.

'What are they saying?'

Glittering sapphire eyes stared back at me, her whole body was posed tight as coils ready to spring or run, her head lowered fangs exposed. Her whole body flexed forward.

'What do I do?' Like, what did I do?

Wolf Luna stalked forward; her head still lowered. Teeth barred. She came forward and I took steps back. Lily's hands tighten on my fur. Why wasn't he helping me? 'Let me go!'

She kept coming closer. Her shinny fur standing on end. If she had been human, she would be yelling at me.

My back paw caught a twig sending me down onto my belly. That is, it, I am done.

'Get over it quick.' It was the least she could do. 'Ash I just want to let you know that I'm going to haunt you for this.'

I growled wishing that he could hear me. Burying my head under my paws I waited. Nothing ever happens.

The growls stopped. Just stopped, the air whistled and snapped around me and, in my ear, followed by poking and prodding. It was everywhere, on my nose, on my head. In my ear!

My head snapped up, finding itself head-to-head with. Ash!

Her wolf self was red, and gold mixed into her pelted fur. Her legs were stocky with paws that seemed too big for her slight form. Her tongue rolled to the side out of her mouth as her tail went to-tock. Side to side. Her nose butted me again and she dashed off yapping when I did not follow. They all looked at me when I did not follow her.

The last figure walked past her parents; her fur even redder than her mother's until she lit up the night like a fire. Even as a wolf she was still beautiful enough to leave anyone breathless. Her wolf self was taller than

me. I bet she could knock me off my feet if she wanted to. She had the same eyes as her mother, she did not snap or snarl at me.

Maeve ducked her head onto mine rubbing her forehead against my fur. 'Stop! Stop!' This is just too weird. What were they doing? It was giving me a headache. A nagging ache was pushing at my mind chiseling in with sharp spikes as though someone was trying to break in.

A force slammed into my back leaving me breathless. Sharp little teeth dug into my ear pulling. Why had I taken

my eyes off Ash? 'Get her off!' The girl wolf tugged again growling low.

'Emmah!' I jumped, that was Ash's voice. 'You Changed!' I stopped moving, rolling over trying to get her off me. Everything around us stopped.

'Ash?' Cautiously I got to my feet, all four of them. She was in Lily's grip squirming to get out.

'Why did you stop playing?' She pouted. 'Play with me.' She squirms to get loose.

'Why can I hear you?' I raised a brow if wolves could raise eyebrows.

'Because you accepted our pack link.' I was jumpy tonight. Who wouldn't be if they had Maggie's voice in their head?

'I am sorry?' I did what now.

'You fought for a while; Ash just distracted you enough to accept it.' Luna said. She took a step forward, moving slowly. 'I did not mean to startle you. We just had to make sure you were uh.' She lifted her lips in a wolfy grin.

'So-o, not crazed out your mind.' Maeve supply. 'Don't you think it is a little to worry about scaring her?' Maeve flanked her mother, and both walked

towards me. Great majestic giants glowing in the night.

'I would say so.' my agreement was shaky. All of me was shaking until Luna put her nose to my ear. Running it down my neck and along my spine. Mae did the same thing.

Letting out a sharp bark and backing away. 'Emmah you are so cute!' Then she was breathtaking, what was her point? When I just looked at her, she ignored me.

'She's small.' Maggie prowled forward next. Luna blocked all my exit routes.

Instinct or whatever you wanted to call it took over. My limbs lowered me to the ground the closer she got.

'Stop being so scary.' Maeve chastised 'We aren't going to hurt you.'

Maggie's nose dug into the spot right behind my ear. He breathed in. 'I see what you mean.' She looked at Ash who was wrestling with Ash. I winced as her sharp teeth were digging into one of her wrists.

'Told you, she smells different but not that much to notice.'

(Humming)

'Maggie's head Maggie's bed, Maggie said...'

'If they don't know what they are looking for you will be looked over completely.' When I did not say anything, 'Emmah, you are going to have to calm down. Stay close and calm down. The more anxious you are the more we can make out the difference in your scent.'

'I'm as calm as I am going to get.' I told her, and they all winced at my shaking voice.

'We aren't going to hurt you.' Maeve told me again grinning showing

all her sharp teeth. 'No offense but you are kind of small for all of us to eat from.'

'Mae!' Luna and Maggie rounded their daughter.

'What, she is. It was supposed to be assuring.'

'Yeah, I feel so assured now.' I told her growling. 'How do I change back?' I asked ready to be human again.

All eyes had been on me, now none of them would look at me. 'Is that your way of telling me that I cannot

change back or that you do not know how to help me.

'A little of both.' Luna smacked Mae in the back of the head with her tail growling at her daughter to shut up.

'We haven't ever had this problem before.' Mae went on. 'You're the first half Nevaeh we have come across.' She dodged her mother's tail. 'We feel so honored to be in your presence. Lucky us.' We both snorted.

'What she means is that we have not known any half Nevaeh's- and this is your first change it would be easier on your body to wait for sunrise to shift

back. The moon is pulling on you too hard for it to be comfortable to go through changes that quickly.'

'So-o, I am stuck like this!' My panic came out in sharp yaps! My feet stumbled over each other as I backed away. 'I cannot shift back!'

'Emmah!' They all growl at me. 'Calm down.' Then even Ash yapped at me.

I growled back, this was easy for them to say. Did they have any idea how big this was? This was major, huge. Astronomical, Nic would die- I winced. If

I had found this out in strange, that I could Change I would be dead already.

I was not in Strange and as far as I could tell the Moonbloods were not going to kill me, but I was going to kill Ash for talking me into coming camping with him tonight.

'Okay, okay.' I growl. 'I'm not going to freak out anymore, I'll try.'

'Good girl.'

Maggie stepped forward but not near me. 'Do you want to come hunting.'

-Then-

Before I could tell him heck no Ash piped in. 'She isn't that steady on her feet Dad.'

Maggie looked at his son and turned back to me finally seeing the shaking in my legs as more than just nerves. 'I see...' I hated that he did.

Even more- I hated myself more for having a weakness.

'It is your first change.' I jumped into the air at Lily's voice in my ear. She had not made a sound even to my new bionic super wolfy ears, she was deadly silent. I shivered at the thought of her as a wolf, yet now it is like she is a pet

puppy. 'Don't be ashamed because this is new to you.' Jumping away I snarled at her.

'Don't do that!' She simply grinned backing up.

'Do you want us to stay with you?' Luna shouldered up to me. 'This must be scary for you. The first changes usually are.' She had no idea.

'No, I think I'm good.' They did not need to stay on my account unless they could turn me back into an actual human, there was not much they could do for me.

'I'll stay.' Mae the helpful volunteer. 'We can teach you how to do stuff.'

'I'll stay too.' Ash finally got free; she was on my back in seconds. 'You're my size, Mae and Ash are too big to play with me sometimes. You are small enough.' I growled trying to throw the little demon wolf child off my neck. She gripped into my ear tighter and held on.

'Do you want me to shift?' Ash asked, taking her demon child little sister off my back. I froze hoping my panic did not show too much. Then they could all smell it. I had seen Ash change

once and it was, not change. I had seen her wolf chase me in these woods only a few weeks ago. She was tall and dark, gorgeous and the scariest thing going on in this world.

'I-I don't mind.' I told the small group they all froze waiting for what I would say.

Ash gripped Ash in a headlock. 'Are you sure?' She did not sound so sure herself.

'I wouldn't have said I was if I wasn't.' I like yapping at her. Maggie chuckled watching us beside Luna. 'We will be fine.' I assure the Moonbloods

parents. The worst had to be over, there was not anything else that could shock or terrify me anymore. Ash bit down on her brother's hand and leapt for me again. Slamming into my side we rolled across the campsite and around.

'You're getting bitten by a seven-year-old.' Mae yarned from across the site stretching out her long form on the ground.

'Yes, a seven-year-old that is a little smaller than I am.' And it is not a combination. Mae yarned again.

All she said. 'Excuses.' Ash and I stopped, neither of us sure the moment

we decided to call a truce to take down someone else. We rushed Mae tackling her into the ground, Ash did. I tripped over my paws into the dirt and rolled into them. Mae yipped and went down into our ball of fur paws and teeth. Ash's teeth.

'You crazy mutts!' Mae grunted trying to throw us off. 'Get off, get off!'

'Mommy said not to call me that.' Ash chastises rolling with her sister onto her back. I took Mae's tail and pulled it. She turned to shoot knives at me and bare a very impressive set of teeth at me.

'Do that again and I will shave you in your sleep Fernfield.' What? I pulled it again. She growled and stopped turning around trying to catch Ash before she made a moonwalk out of her spine. They rolled away into the dark without me.

'How are you feeling?' Ash asked beside me.

I growled. 'If one more person asked me that stupid question I would... oh!' I sprang away from her, my mouth gapping open. I had thought I was talking to human Ash, but one glance told me I was wrong.

A huge black wolf cloaked by darkness sat right beside where I had been perched. It did not seem right to even call him a wolf, he was a mammoth. My last memory was dwarfed by what was sitting in front of me. She was a beast. Ash watched me from that boulder she called ahead. If she did not smell the same, I would know it was her, yes, I would. Her eyes were unchanged, and she still wore the same expression of concerned bemusement. It was Lily.

'Oh my gosh what did they feed you?' I hiccupped; my head had to look up at him.

'Deer and rabbits.' She rolled her front shoulders, shaking out her fur.

'I bet it takes a whole herd.' I muttered while staying where I was.

'No, just two, maybe one if we get a buck.' She grinned and I grimaced.

'Just because I found this out doesn't mean I am eating meat.' I told him firmly.

She lay down stretching her front paws in front of her. 'Really, I do not care. If you want to eat-'

'RABBIT FOOD!' Mae grunted still rolling with Ash.

'That.' Ash nodded. 'It does not really matter to me.

'Then what does?' My tail was annoying me. What was it there for? What was I supposed to do with it? It kept wanting to swing or move but it hurt to sit on it.

'If you are safe and able to shift between your two selves. I do not care what you choose diet on.' such a diplomatic answer.

'What does it feel like when you shift? It felt as if a fire was scorching my skin and my bones were being broken up and realigned all wrong.' Ash frowned.

'It isn't supposed to be painful for the first change, just little sharp pressures and you're on all fours and howling to the moon.' Her tail ticked from side to side. A growl sounded from across the site, Ash had gotten a hold of Mae's tail.

'Say you're sorry.' she growled.

'I am willing not your little monster, let it go!' Ash must have bitten down; Mae's howl of outrage rang through the trees into the night.

'It will get better next time.' She promised to bring my attention back to her.

Inside and under all the fur my insides soared. 'No!' I should not be happy about this, there was not anything to be excited about. 'I'm not changing again.'

'What do you mean you are not changing again?' Mae sat up to look at me. Ash did too. Great, two stubborn Nevaeh's instead of one, you know they were alike as when they were born.

'I'm not.' I growled. 'This was an accident; I do not want to. I do not even know how I did it.'

'It isn't a choice sometimes.' Mae told us. 'When She calls to her

children, we have no choice but to answer.' She flung Ash back with her paw into the surrounding brush.

I frown. 'Well, I am going to have to get some ear plugs, this isn't happening again.'

'Be reasonable.' Mae headed my way. 'Emmah it is not as if you are in any danger, we will protect you. You are family.' I was? Since when?

I loved the Moonbloods like family, they were the nicest people, I knew but when had they decided to bring me into their family. 'I never asked

you to protect me.' I growled. Why did they do it?

'Of course, you did your crazy nut job, we want to protect you. We really care about you!' She growled low driving in how much she loved and cared about me. Ash was not speaking. 'If we did not give a crap about you then do you think you would be standing here arguing with me? Do you seriously think we would have cared so much that Devin was after you?'

'I-no.' I would be at home getting bitched at by Lily or part of the

undead clan or in jail. One of the three sounded about right. Mae snorted.

'You're supposed to be the smart one.' She sat down beside Lily. 'He isn't the brightest star in the sky.' she pointed to her brother. 'But he was right to bring you to our family, around us.' sitting on haunches she looked me over. There was something about being assessed through the eyes of a wolf that irked her. Wolves saw a hundred times more clearly than any human, it is all part of being shapeshifters, angels to wolves in the moonlight, hiding in the souls and bodies

of others in human life or showing up as manifested ghosts.

'It is weirding me out too, believe me but you just fit in with our family. It takes the most special and awesome of people to do that.' her tail wagged.

'That has nothing to do with me choosing not to shift.' I growled at her hiding how shocking it was to hear from her that she considered me family.

'It means that she doesn't want to see you like you were when we first met you.' Ash growled in for the first time. 'It means that she cares about you

and is worried about what will happen if you keep trying to deny what you are.'

'Don't you growl at me.' I snapped.

'Don't do stupid things.' he said calmly. 'You are denying your birthright for no reason. It is stupid.'

'Well, I am so sorry for being retarded.' I growled at him. Devin was on his feet.

'That's not what I meant!'

'That is exactly what you meant!' We squared off. Ash started a slow circling pace around me, she tried but I

would never put my back on her. We twirl around forever just staring at each other. From somewhere I heard. 'What are they doing?' It was Ash.

'I do not know. It is an Ash Emmah thing.'

Finally Driven sat down after what felt like an eternity. 'You know what. No, I am not going to play this with you.'

'Play what?' He completely bewildered me. You think you are something, we all are not now.

'This is whatever it is.' He remains calm. 'We haven't found a name for it yet.'

'You need to explain it to me because I am not sure either.'

'You want me to get mad so you can make an excuse to run and hide and feel the world in against you.' He tilted his mammoth head. 'You aren't used to fitting in and you aren't even sure if you like it.'

I growl, he did not know what he was talking about. 'Shut up.' We had had this discussion before if I was correct about him assuming things.

'And it is scaring the shit out of you that you are happy and feel something other than fear and regret.' I growled, willing him to shut up. He did not, Ash never backed down. 'But you know what, you are going to like it. No, love it because you have no other choice.'

-Then-

Before, I knew what I was doing before he knew what hit him. I attacked lunging right into his wall of a chest with enough speed and force it sent us both tumbling into the dirt. Only a last-minute maneuver from him saved our fur from

burning in the fire. We ended up in a jumble of fur and feet and I found myself on Lily's chest. 'I said shut up.'

'Okay, what are you going to do now?'

'I-' good question. He was much bigger than me, of course, he was letting me pin him all he had to do was oh-one second the world was mine, and the next I was on the ground glaring up into the two most fascinating eyes I had ever seen, I never knew he was blood to me, he was just the cute boy that I had a crush on when I was a girl. Lily's teeth bare under her lips a low growl coming

from her throat. 'What are you going to do now?' Mimicking his question.

His head rubbed against my chest, a broad patch of silver fur amidst the black coat I was covered in. 'Nothing.' He said, moving his head away. 'Just showing you that you are not going to have your way.' not on this. He promised without a word.

‘We know she wears the guy's doing around her neck like it is a cowbell.’

'You're stubborn enough to do it too.' I growled snapping at his shoulder.

He jumped away letting me get to my feet.

'Now that we have that straight.' He inclines his head. 'Let us start off with some rules about being part of a pack.' He sat, and I assumed I was to do the same. Mae came up to join our party.

'Pack is family.'

Part:

Mae agreed. 'We protect each other.'

'Physically and emotionally.' Ash shrugged his shoulders, behind him a small shadow stalked in the dirt.

'Karly-' I began, Mae shushed me.

'Don't interrupt.' She chastises.

'Rule number two. We are open with each other. We tell each other everything.' Ash thought about it. 'Yes, everything. Mae has not told Maggie a few things-'

'You haven't told Karly or Maggie a lot of things.' Mae shot back. 'Like that time when we took the car.'

Ash chimed in. 'A pack is a hierarchy though it is changing now that we hit the age of democracy. We still

have Alpha based on strength.' The shadow came closer. 'Okay. What happened when you took the truck?'

'A pack consists of one Alpha and his Karly if he is mated, but that does not mean that there are not dominants, most Nevaeh's to some degrees are dominant. That is what gives them the potential to be Alphas or Betas.

Submissive are in a pack too, they are the ones that need to be protected because they do not like to fight and would not hold off long against

a dominant. you can always spot a submissive.'

Mae told me, ignoring my question.

'Back in your pack what would you have been?' I asked curiously. What would Ash have been if he had not left his old pack?

'I- oh.'

'I know you would have been made Alpha this year if we had stayed.' Mae chimed in. Ash glared.

'No, I wouldn't have.'

'Well, then Bell if you want to be so nervous about it.' Mae muttered. 'Nevaeh doesn't become part of the hierarchy on their own until they are sixteen, seventeen it varies.' on what?

'Ash would have been named Alpha or Bell if we were back there.' Why didn't she stay back home?

'Why didn't you stay there?' I asked.

'It got tiring having to watch my back all the time.' Ash shrugged. 'I didn't want to be an alpha and everyone thought I was crazy.' We have all earned

our wings, then transferred into animals when we got older.

'You might want to watch your back now,' I told Ash right before Ash tackled her into the dirt, it was getting colder.

'Pinned yah!' She sat on her back jerking a black feathery-looking worm in her mouth.

It was Lily's tail!

Mae turned to me with a bored look at her wolfy features. 'See, it is all for the best she would have made a lousy alpha.' She told me right before

she was tackled by her brother and sister.

And gone! It is the- first day of the holidays, remember?

-And-

Then said Jinger, watching Naddalin closely, as a wolf, as the moon started to go behind the clouds. And its feasting time; I was going to come and wake you up in a minute.

-And-

Naddalin slumped into a chair next to the- fire, in the body of a wolf, Nevaeh in the body of Naddalin. Snow

was still falling outside frosting the truck windows. It was cold for this time of the year. Crookshanks were spread out in front of her- fire like a large, ginger rug.

Part:

‘Like you do not look well, you know,' Emmah said, peering anxiously into her face.

-And-

I am fine.

-And-

Then conveyed Naddalin.

And Naddalin, listen, and communicated Emmah, exchanging a look with Jinger, and you must be upset about what we heard yesterday. But the thing is, you must not go to do anything stupid.

-And-

Like what? And then told Naddalin.

Like trying to go after Black and said Jinger sharply.

Naddalin could tell they had rehearsed her conversation while she-

had been asleep. She- did not say anything.

-And-

You will not, will you, Naddalin? And declared Emmah.

-And-

Because Black's not worth dying for stated Jinger.

Naddalin looked at them. They did not seem to understand at all.

-And-

Did you know what I see and hear every time a Dementor gets too near me?

-And-

Then Jinger and Emmah shook their heads, looking apprehensive. And I can hear my mom screaming and pleading with Ava.

Like if you had heard your mum screaming like that, about to be killed, you would not forget it in a hurry.

Like if you found out someone who was supposed to be a friend of

yours, she betrayed you and sent Ava after... you.

We know...

-And-

‘I am not afraid anymore.’

Like there is nothing you can do! Then shared Emmah, looking stricken. And She- Dementors will catch, Black And she will go back to penitentiary And - And serve her right!

~*~

And you heard what Harlan said. Black is not affected by pain, and jail

time like normal people are. It is not a punishment for her like it is for clothes.

-And-

So-o what are you saying? And told Jinger, looking very tense. And You want to - to kill Black or something? And do not be silly, expressed Emmah in a strong voice. And Naddalin does not want to kill anyone, do you, Naddalin?

-And-

Again, Naddalin did not answer. She- did not know what she- wanted to do. All she- knew was that her idea of

doing nothing, while Black was at liberty, was more than she- could stand.

And Mallerie knows, and she- said abruptly. And remember what she- said to me in Potions? 'If it were me, I would hunt her down my fairy… I would want revenge.'

-And-

Are you going to take Mallorie's advice instead of ours? And said Jinger furiously. And listen… Do you know what Klaas's mother got back after Black had finished with her? Dad told me - the Proclamation of Merlin, first class, And Klaas's fingers in a shoe box. That was

the- biggest bit of her they could find. Black's a madman, Naddalin, And she-'s dangerous. Klaas was absurdum in his power.

...And Mallorie's dad must have told her, and displayed Naddalin as a ghostly image of herself, ignoring Jinger.

Likewise, she was right in Ava's inner circle.

-And-

Do you comprehend who you will be? And interjected Jinger angrily. It was so obviously; Mallerie's knew Black was working for Ava.

-And-

Mallerie loves to see you blown into about a million pieces, like Klaas! Control yourself. Mallerie's just hoping you will get yourself killed before she-must play you at Clepsydra.

-And-

Then Naddalin, please, said Emmah, her eyes now shining with tears.

…And please be sensible.

Black did a terrible, terrible thing, but do not put yourself in danger, it is what Black wants… Oh, Naddalin,

you would be playing right into Black's hand ss if you went looking for her. Your mom and dad would not want you to get hurt, would they? They would never want you to go looking for Black!

-And-

Likewise, I will never know what they would have wanted, because thanks to Black, I have never spoken to them, and then said Naddalin shortly.

There was a silence in which Crookshanks stretched luxuriously flexing her claws. Jinger's pocket quivered.

And look, and then said Jinger, obviously casting around for a change of subject, and it is she- holidays! It is Christmas! Let us - let us go down and see Darkside village. We have not visited her for ages! No! Then said. Emmah quickly.

Naddalin is not supposed to leave the- castle, Jinger and yes, let us go, and then at that time and at that moment said Naddalin, sitting up, and I can ask her how come she- never mentioned Black when she- told me all about my parents, he was our true dad, by blood!

Further discussion of Tirus

Black plainly was not what Jinger had had in mind. Or we could have a game of chest, she said hastily, and or bowling. Serafina left her seat and said no, let us visit Darkside and all the shops, and said Naddalin firmly see all the windows starting to glow at nightfall.

So, they got Robes from their dormitories and set off through the portrait hole (And stand and fight, you yellow-bellied mongrels!) Down through the- empty castle and out through the- oak front doors. Spinning... time ripped away from their minds.